

# WATER QUALITY

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## **Project title: Yellowstone River Basin Study Unit National Water Quality Assessment**

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Objective: The overall goals of the NAWQA Program are to 1) describe current water-quality conditions for a large part of the Nation's freshwater streams and aquifers; 2) describe how water quality is changing over time; and 3) improve our understanding of the primary natural and human factors affecting the water quality.

Findings: Samples were collected at several sites for bed sediment and fish tissue analysis. The samples were sent to the USGS National Water Quality Laboratory to be analyzed for trace elements and organics. A Water-Resources Investigations Report describing the results is in press at this time.

## **Project title: Reference Stream Monitoring: Long-term Trend Sites**

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Objective: Collect long-term water quality, biological and stream habitat data at least-impacted streams in Yellowstone National Park. Reference stream data will be used as a benchmark for assessing water-quality, biological, and habitat conditions of test streams in the Middle Rockies ecoregion of Wyoming.

Findings: Monitoring of long-term reference sites is ongoing; no final report is available at this time. However, data from streams in YNP have been used to develop biological criteria for assessing aquatic life use attainment at other Middle Rockies ecoregion streams.